

IV. REMARKS

Applicants hereby provisionaly elect group I (claims 1-9).

It is respectfully submitted that the restriction between groups I and II is improper, because at least both claims 1 and 10 recite means (or steps) of selecting (or determining) a first selected length of sealing tape, and electronic means to control dispensing of the first selected length of sealing tape. Thus there is at least one common special technical feature as required by 37 CFR 1.475 in order to maintain unity of invention. The standard under 37 CFR 1.475 is not that the claims have all features in common, but rather that the claims share at least one common special technical feature. Hence it is requested that the election requirement be withdrawn.

For similar reasons, the restriction between species A (Fig. 4) and species B (Fig. 7) is improper. In particular, Fig. 7 shows the invention of Fig. 3 being controlled by a remote host computer, which is a single inventive concept under PCT rule 13.1. Nevertheless, applicants elect Fig. 7. Further claims 1-9 and 10-18 read on this figure. It is submitted that since all apparatus and method claims read on this figure, all claims should continue to be prosecuted in this application.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are directed to a single general inventive concept in accordance with 37 CFR 1.475. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved

issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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9/29/03

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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